The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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CONGRESS ADJOURNS; LABOR LAWS SCARCE

Washington, March 8.—The sixty-fifth congress adjourned sine die on Tuesday, March 4.

By refusing appropriations, congress scrapped all the boards developed by the department of labor during the war, despite the hope that these boards would be permitted to function in time of peace. The A. F. of L. telegraphed suggestions to every state and central body in its jurisdiction that a petition be made to congress and congressmen to support this legislation. As a result, the defeat of the $10,000,000 appropriation for the United States employment service was the lobby of private employment agencies. No appropriation was made for the women's industry service, the working conditions service and other important sections of the department of labor. The national war labor board has refused $356,000. All of these boards will pass out of existence at the end of the fiscal year—June 30—unless a special session of the new congress be called before that time. The president and necessary funds are appropriated.

The remedial legislation that failed of passage included:

The bill prohibiting immigration, the land reclamation proposal by Secretary of the Interior Lane, the Nolan 12 minimum wage bill, the bill for protecting government employes, convict labor legislation, Senator Borah's bill proposal to investigate and recommend methods of promoting industrial peace and industrial conditions, several bills providing for reconstruction commissions and the Sowden bill which would authorize the government to loan funds to states and municipalities to finance public undertakings.

A tax of 10 per cent has been placed on the net receipts of "every business in child labor with the same restrictions as were contained in the law which was declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court.

The $30,000,000 increase for government employes receiving up to $2,500 was increased to $40,000,000 for the fiscal year, and a commission was created to classify salaries of these employes. The following have been named members of this commission: Senators Lenroot (Nevada), Henderson and Spencer, and Messrs. Keating, Cooper and Hamlin. The last three named were congressmen, but will not be members of the next house.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE

Washington, March 8.—The Monroe doctrine is now here to stay, according in connection with the proposed league of nations, that it has become, in international, although it has become, by common acceptance, an unwritten law of this country.

The doctrine is taken from President Monroe's message to congress in December, 1823, in which he declared that this country should resist any attempt by European nations to "extend their system to the western hemisphere and thereby endanger domestic peace." That portion of the message which is now referred to as the "Monroe doctrine," is as follows:

"The American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are not to be considered as subjects for colonization by European powers.

"We should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependency of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly spirit towards the United States."

U. S. FOOD STOCKS LARGER.

Washington, March 8.—A partial survey of food stocks by the department of agriculture shows a large volume of commodities in storage in this country. Wheat holdings this year are nearly three times as large as on the same date last year. On February 1, this year, there was on hand 225,000,000 bushels, or 239.6 per cent over last year. Corn holdings were 662.5 per cent more than last year.

Oats increased 102.2 per cent; barley, 136.1 per cent; rye, wheat flour, whole wheat and graham flour, 124; barley flour, 209; rye flour, 181.4; corn meal, 154.6; cracked wheat, 144.8; mixed flour, 253.7 per cent.

Wholesale stocks reported increases in the following commodities: Beans, 212.3 per cent; rice, 121.5; rolled oats, 156.5; canned corn, 167.3; canned oysters, 157.4, sugar, 156.8 per cent. Canned salmon on hand was 10.7 per cent; it was 96.2 per cent of the total on hand February 1, 1918.

Holdings of condensed milk this year represented 139 per cent of stocks a year ago. Holdings of evaporated unsweetened milk represented 84.5 per cent of the February, 1918, stocks.

GIVES ADVICE TO COURTS.

Albany, N. Y., March 8.—In opposing a wage increase for judges of the court of appeals, Senator Davies, of Lewis, said:

"We want more humanity in our justice. The courts today are loaded with men, 90 per cent of whom could not earn outside what they are now paid by the state. In many instances they are lacking in that social sense, that human touch that makes jurisprudence what it ought to be. They have not enough human sympathy. As long as such conditions exist we remain what it is today. I am opposed to increasing salaries."

START LABOR AGENCIES.

Ottawa, Canada, March 8.—The Dominion and provincial governments are co-operating to distribute employment. Employment offices are being established throughout the Dominion in centers of 10,000 population and over, and wherever the need for them exists. A system will be established a complete chain of these agencies from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This service is maintained without cost to the employee and the workers.

FLU EQUALS WAR LOSSES.

London, England, March 8.—While discussing a bill to create a ministry of health, Dr. Addison told members of the house of commons that in the last three months of last year the loss of life in the armed forces in the United Kingdom was as high as the average monthly losses during the war from war causes.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN.

Rock Island, Ill., March 8.—Electrical workers employed in this city and in Moline and Davenport have won their strike for higher wages. Rates have been increased from 67 1-2 to 75 cents an hour. The strike started last November.

COSSACK ADVOCATES ROUTED BY UNIONISTS

Columbus, Ohio, March 8.—Cossack advocates were given the surprise of their lives at an open hearing on this question before the Ohio senate military committee.

The state federation of labor is opposing the state cossack bill and nearly all of Ohio's more progressive trade unionists from every section of the state were present. The state federation also invited these Pennsylvania trade unionists, who were present and gave the committee first hand information on the workings of the cossacks in that commonwealth.

James H. Maurer, president Pennsylvania state federation of labor; Thomas Kennedy, president United Mine Workers, district No. 7, Hazleton, Pa., and David Williams, general Machinists' union, Allentown, Pa.

The claim that the cossacks never break strikes was answered with telling effect by the Pennsylvania trade unionists, who produced photographs of the strike during the Bethlehem steel strike, showing the cossacks inside the plant, in the mill yard and on the roofs in front of the mills.

While Ohio farmers are assured that the cossacks will protect their orchards and hen roosts, the visiting unionists showed that the cossacks in their state are quartered in manufacturing centers, and that the same plea to the farmers was used when Pennsylvania law was being considered.

"The Pennsylvania state constabulary was created in an atmosphere of lies and hypocrisy," declared Thomas Kennedy.

Organizer Williams dared advocates of the bill to tell who paid their expenses to this city. "Is it the state federation of labor is paying our way?" he said with irony. "Now tell the committee who is paying yours."

No response was made to this challenge.

ANTI-INJUNCTION BILL

Madison, Wis., March 8.—An anti-injunction bill has been introduced in the state assembly. The bill declares:

"The labor of a human being shall be held and construed not to be a commodity or article of commerce. The right to enter into the relation of employer and employe, or to change that relation, shall assume and create a new relation of employer and employe, or to perform and carry on business with any person in any lawful way, the work and labor as an employe, shall be held and construed to be a personal, and not a property right. In all cases involving the relation of employer and employe, either by the employe or employer where no irreparable damage is about to be committed upon property or property right of either, no injunction shall be granted, but the parties shall be left to their remedy at law.

"No person shall be indicted, prosecuted, or tried in any court of this state for entering into, carrying on any arrangement, agreement, or combination between employers and employes, that has for its object the lessening the number of hours of labor or increasing the rate of wages, or bettering the condition of working men."

BUILD SCHOOL HOUSES.

Washington, March 8.—"Build school houses," advises Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education.

"Previous to our entrance into the war," he says, "the country was spending $100,000,000 annually on new and additional schools. We did not supply the need. Hundreds of thousands of children in the low-grade districts have had their attendance and millions attended schools in rooms totally unsuited to school use, according to modern sanitary standards.

"During the last two years school house building almost ceased, and we have both the need of 1916 and the accumulated need of the two years of the war, larger than ever before. Because of the unprecedented shifting of population,

"To supply these needs will require not less than $500,000,000 of building, by the time school opens in the fall of 1920."

BISBEE MOBBERS RECALLED.

Bisbee, Ariz., March 8.—The deportation of 1,200 miners and other workers two years ago in Bisbee, Arizona, was recalled by a discussion in the federal senate on the question of the strike. Wages have been reduced and it is claimed that the copper operators would like to provoke a strike, so that stocks could be unloaded. At the meeting one senator made a fervent plea for the workers to "down tools," and when he concluded another senator replied:

"I was in Bisbee then. But I wasn't working."

"No, you wasn't working," replied the questioner. "You were sitting on a log at a box car with a gun and I was on the inside."

The union voted not to strike.

IMPORTING CHEAP LABOR.

St. Louis, Mo., March 8.—The central trades and labor union has protested against the importation of cheap Mexican labor by the Aluminum Ore company, located at East St. Louis, Ill. The company imports cheap colored labor from the south and this practice did much toward causing a race hatred two years ago that culminated in the East St. Louis riot.

OPPOSE BAD LAW.

Hartford, Conn., March 8.—Trade unionists are again asking the legislature to amend section 4 of the Connecticut general statutes. According to the state supreme court's construction of this act it is a criminal offense for a trade unionist to notify an employer that he (the trade unionist) will quit his employment if a non-unionist is employed.

SAY THEY'LL MOVE MILL.

Davis, W. Va., March 8.—The West Virginia Pulp and Paper company threatens to move its plant from this place because employes are on strike for living conditions. The strikers say it is impossible to secure employment within 40 miles of Davis because of the company's blacklist.

RUBBER WORKERS UNITE.

Fort Madison, Iowa, March 8.—Rubber tire workers have organized and an improvement in working conditions is noticed.

"DUMMY" DIRECTORS NOT WANTED BY LABOR

Boston, March 8.—Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal applauds the Massachusetts state federation of labor for refusing to indorse a bill that would permit corporations to provide for the representation of employes on their boards of directors.

The labor editor suggests that employers permit trade unionists to run their own affairs before they (the unionists) are invited to share in the management of the business of some one else.

The bill was introduced in the state legislature by Senator Loring, an executive of the Plymouth Cordage company. In support of the bill, the lawmaker said:

"I have tried many experiments. I have tried profit sharing, bonuses, workmen's committees, and all those things, and every one of them failed the time it stirred a dispute."

Editor Baine calls attention to the employer's failure to mention collective bargaining.

"It is to be expected that an executive committee of the board of directors would run the business and the board of directors would be called in only on certain occasions, principally when it was desired to increase the stock, with some idea in the firm's interest relating to its labor policies. Such committees would be selected by the management of the business or by the directors, and would not be in a perfectly acceptable to the stockholders and to the directors."

Editor Baine predicts a new crop of these schemes which are intended to solve the labor problem, but to circumvent it."

WANT PEONAGE ENDED FIRST.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 8.—Trade unionists in this island are not interested in the agitation for Porto Rico independence. The unionists have been urged by men who ignore palpable economic conditions of the workers.

The organized workers demand that peonage be ended by men who talk of their Americanism and civilization for Porto Rico.

Recently the Porto Rico commissioner, at Washington, made a request for the appointment of trade representatives in which he urged withdrawal of complete independence and both branches of the Porto Rico legislature have forwarded congratulations to the commissioner "for the splendid and just exposition of the Porto Rican case before the American people."

Santiago Iglesias, a member of the Porto Rican senate and a trade unionist, opposed congratulating the commissioner.

"He made no mention," said Iglesias, "of the fact that 85 per cent of the Porto Ricans are slaves of a few corporations who exploit them, and who control our resources for the benefit of stockholders who live in other countries."

FOREIGN COMPETITION.

Manchester, England, March 8.—The old pre-war cry that the textile trade is in bad repute because of lack of foreign competition, is losing its force, according to the Cotton Factory Times, which says:

"This means we must always have our working conditions controlled by the worst conditions in other parts of the world."

It is known that America and many European countries are reducing hours and that "overtime is stirring."

Then one will claim, surely, that Russia, Austria or Belgium is cutting us out," says this paper.

"If on new and rapid lines we are not supply the need. Hundreds of thousands of children in the low-grade districts have had their attendance and millions attended schools in rooms totally unsuited to school use, according to modern sanitary standards.

"During the last two years school house building almost ceased, and we have both the need of 1916 and the accumulated need of the two years of the war, larger than ever before. Because of the unprecedented shifting of population,

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NORTH DAKOTA IN FIELD OF INDUSTRY

Bismarck, N. D., March 8.—With the signing of several bills by Governor Frazier, North Dakota enters upon a program of state industry that is without parallel in the history of this country.

By these bills the state will establish and operate the bank of North Dakota; build and operate terminal grain elevators and flour mills; establish and operate a state builders' association for the purpose of enabling inhabitants of the state to build and own their own homes; and set up an industrial commission to manage these and other industries the state may decide to embark upon under the unlimited power granted by the constitutional act of state constitution.

The amendment to the constitution, approved at the last election, removes the limit on state indebtedness and authorizes the state or any city or county to engage in any industry or to establish and operate any utility or intexicants. Other amendments provide methods for amending the state constitution and limits the state supreme court in declaring laws unconstitutional.

The present legislature passed a seventy-hour week and minimum wage laws; a mining code; a workmen's compensation law; a law for the taxation of express, sleeping car, freight rates and franchises. A workmen's compensation law, with a state insurance fund, failed to be passed. Excepting Missouri, this state was the only one to adopt the Mason and Dixon line that had no compensation law.

All this legislation is the result of the Non-partisan league, organized by farmers a few years ago. The league is in complete control of the state.

TELEPHONE STRIKE LOOMS.

Washington, March 8.—The labor policy of Postmaster General Burleson in precipitating a strike of telephone employes in the Pacific and Atlantic coasts that may extend throughout the country.

These workers, both men and women, are members of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and are asking for machinery that will render arbitration, adjust controversies, working conditions and pay. The telephone companies have under government control, tell the workers they are unable to act and refer them to Postmaster General Burleson, while that official assures the workers that he cannot negotiate act if they so desire. The employes are tired of these tactics.

Telephone operators in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont have voted by 6,420 to 1,420 to 650 in favor of a strike. The 4,000 electrical workers employed on linemen in Boston have unanimously declared for a strike. On the Pacific coast the vote is 91 per cent in favor of suspending work.

Officers of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, located at Springfield, Ill., have refused to interfere to all operators and men, whether the strike will be made general. Another referendum proposes for an immediate assessment of $5 and a monthly assessment of $1 to finance the strike.

The union has removed it means approximately $600,000 immediately and $120,000 a month while the strike lasts.

DISCUSS ENGLISH UNREST.

London, England, March 8.—British miners have refused to accept a government strike for a six-hour day and increased wages. Railroad men and miners are backed by the railway men and transport workers, whose cessation of work would paralyze England.

At what was declared the most important industrial conference in the history of England, and which was attended by Premier Lloyd George, Minister of Labor Horne and representatives of workers and employers, a resolution was adopted calling for the appointment of an equal number of representatives of employers and employes and a neutral chairman or arbiter, the question of hours, wages and unemployment and the best methods for promoting co-operation between capitalists and laborers.

At the conference it was declared that there was inadequate housing accommodations, were the two chief causes for unrest.

START CO-OP. STORE.

Portland, Ore., March 8.—A committee appointed by the central labor union has completed plans to start a co-operative business. Arrangements have been made to deal with the Portland Co-operative Society, may join the co-op. movement by paying in cents' worth a month for 25 cents. This will entitle them to buy goods handled at cost. Farmers-members pay a membership fee of $2 and dues of 50 cents a month. They will receive benefits of both buying and selling through the store. It is estimated that the fees and dues will pay for the store and expenses. The store will open with a line of staple groceries and farm products, which will be extended as the movement develops.

STOCK JUGGLING A SCANDAL.

New York, March 8.—The manipulation of the International Mercantile Marine company's stock by a group of New York bankers is a scandal, says the New York World. This paper says in part:

"It has been hoping that a congressional investigation will bring out some highly interesting facts in connection with the manipulation of the stock."

PAINTERS STOP CUT.

Davenport, Iowa, March 8.— Organized painters in this city have won their fight against wage reductions. They were locked out because they refused to accept the cut and the contractors have now signed an agreement with them.

VOTES FOR WOMEN GAIN.

Raleigh, N. C., March 8.—The state senate has passed a bill which permits women to vote resulting in a victory. The bill is now before the house. It is the first time that the question of this state acted favorably on a woman suffrage measure.

STRIKE TO HOLD WAGES.

Downington, Pa., March 8.—A wage reduction of from 10 to 20 cents an hour resulted in a strike at the Downington iron works. The business of this firm is 50 per cent government work.

STATE CONSTABULARY IS "PRUSSIAN" IDEA

Madison, Wis., March 8.—"A bill which ought to be squelched in a hurry," is the advice given to state law makers by Editor Evjue of the Capitol Times, in discussing the proposed state constabulary law.

"Some of our reactionary legislators," says the editor, "would do well if they would take some cognizance of the fundamental principles of psychology these days.

"A war has just been concluded which had for its aim the death blow to militarism and all its paraphernalia and accompaniments. And yet here we have a serious proposal in the name of the assembly to set up a sort of peasant proposition in Wisconsin. Instead of putting a few thousand men of war we hear of a plan to resort to force by having a gang of state-established ujhlans to brow-beat the peaceable citizens of Wisconsin.

"The head of this organization, we are told, 'will be appointed by the governor and will be paid $4,500 a year.' In addition an army of salaries for lieutenants and captains and sergeants and we suppose that money will also be available for gold braid and pretty buttons. The whole proposition seems a convenient instrument for an administration controlled by big business to 'preserve law and order.'

"Wisconsin is a peace loving state. Her people are not in the habit of rioting. The legal machinery that we already have in the industrial accident commission. It is stated that the average of all industries throughout the country is one man injured out of each eight employed, although this rate has probably changed during the past year or two. Experiences of individual lumber companies indicate that the accident ratio can be reduced to one man in six or seven during the year.

"What the accidents of 1917 meant to the lumber industry of this state is shown when we find that there were 2,500 industrial disabilities only amounted to 44,945 days." says the statement. "For the same period without one single death, the operating season averaged approximately 200 days. This is the equivalent of a cost of practically $190,000 for time lost, which is being realized, whereas this same group of men usefully employed, together with their families, are permanently injured during the year. They received a wage of approximately $110,000."

MOBBER SLAPPED ON WRIST

Jackson, Mich., March 8.—At the request of Governor Sleeper, Frank Hatch the leader of the mob that tarred and feathered Editor Gillespie last November was slapped on the wrist in police court and then discharged.

Herbert Crawford, organizer of the Machinists' union was the victim of the mob, led by William Paupel, of the state cossacks. After Crawford was tarred and feathered Paupel left the city. The claim that an understanding was reached with public officials charged with law enforcement is given credence by the fact that the prosecuting attorney asked that the charge be changed to assault and battery. Then Paupel pleaded guilty and was fined $75.

It is an open secret that the mob was composed of "respectable" citizens, by the members of a war patriotic organization, were interested in stopping trade union agitation in this city.

WANTS 'EM INCORPORATED.

Boston, March 8. — Representative Whidden has introduced a bill in the state legislature for incorporation of labor unions and requiring that all employers who say they want to deal with "responsible parties." Ten per cent of their stock be controlled by 90 per cent, said Representative Whidden.

The unionists laugh at this claim and show how convenient the law would prove in times of strikes when the employer wanted to tie up a union by suing it. Unless a union is incorporated, it could be sued. Action could be started on any pretext and it would be a cinch for the boss. It would issue an injunction against the union using any of its funds to pay the employer a claim for damages was settled, or thrown out of court after long litigation.

BATTLE DEATHS 7,354,000.

Washington, March 8.—Battle deaths during the war among all participants, in the war, are estimated at a grand total 7,354,000, according to General March, chief of staff of the army. These figures represent only men killed in action and of wounds. Russia lost with 1,700,000. Losses by the other nations were as follows: Germany, 1,800,000; France, 1,357,800; Austria-Hungary, 800,000; England, 706,000, Italy, 460,000; Turkey, 325,000; Belgium, 102,000; Roumania, 100,000; Bulgaria, 100,000; Serbia and Montenegro, 100,000, and the United States, 50,000.

FOREMAN SOLD JOBS.

Brockton, Mass., March 8.—John F. White, foreman in the shoe factory of North Abington, has been found guilty on 10 of 16 counts charging him with extorting money from applicants as payment for retaining their positions.

BREAK AGREEMENT.

Asbury Park, N. J., March 8.—Painting contractors declared for the non-union shop when the Painters' union No. 594 asked for wage increases. Over 100 painting contractors had agreements with the union.

FURNACE WORKERS UNITE.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 8.—Practically every blast furnace worker employed at the Bellaire and Benwood plants has been organized.

LIABILITY ACT UPHELD.

Abington, March 8.—The Texas employers' liability act has been upheld by the Supreme court of Texas.

"Labor Is Not a Commodity," Says British Trade Unionist

London, England, March 8.—Labor is not a commodity and it demands that it shall become real partners in industry, is the declaration of the triple alliance, consisting of the unions of railway workers, miners and transport workers.

This statement was made by Thomas H. Thomas, member of parliament and general secretary National Union of Railway Men of Great Britain and Ireland, at a conference of employers and employes.

The trade unionist said he was deputed to make the following observation for the triple alliance:

"The organized workers of Great Britain have made up their minds to obtain for themselves an increasing share of the wealth which their labor has produced and produces. The workers of the three-fold organization are determined to shorten materially the hours of labor in their respective industries. They are dissatisfied with the system of society which treats their labor power as if it were a commodity to be bought, sold and used at pleasure. They loathe the chine-like units in the process of wealth production classified as 'hands.' They therefore demand that they shall become real partners in industry and participate in determining conditions and management."

Temporary Unemployment Denied State Benefits

Manchester, England, March 8.—Trade union opposition to the government's unemployment insurance plan is increased by a decision that when a mill shuts down for the week the workers are not entitled to out-of-work benefits.

Under the plan workers are laid off because of slack business and they applied to the unemployment exchange for benefits.

They were offered work at another mill, and the union's secretary showed that the workers were unsuited for the positions they were given. In one of the applicants, a girl, was in poor health and had been in a hospital, and the work to which she was put was too much for her.

The benefits were denied and the workers appealed to the district court of referees, where the decision was upheld.

The case will be appealed to the umpire in London. If the decision is confirmed, it means that when a mill shuts down temporarily through no fault of the employes, they must accept whatever employment may be assigned them, or they will be denied out-of-work benefits to which they have been forced to contribute. Trade unionists have registered bitter opposition to this compulsory feature of the law.

FARMERS CUT ACREAGE.

Charleston, S. C., March 8.—Farmers throughout this state are holding mass meetings and signing pledges to cut this season's cotton crop one-third, because of present market conditions. Business men are also urging the movement and in Sumter a mass meeting was addressed by ex-Governor Blease, who urged the farmers to reduce their cotton crops. The movement is spreading throughout the southern cotton belt.

While trade unionists do not question that the farmers have a right to conduct their business, the workers are asking what plan the farmers have in mind when they give them if they advocated the same plan, because of the overcrowded labor market.

In the workers' case, however, the plan is simple. They want to cut the speed up and produce more; that present wages may be maintained. The farmers will produce less that prices may be maintained.

MUST DEPEND ON UNION.

Boston, March 8.—If bakery workers desire the abolishment of night work in this state it must be done through the union and not by legislation, Attorney Attwill has ruled that legislative action on this line is unconstitutional. The house committee on labor reported adversely.

The state official quoted court decisions to uphold his opinion, but acknowledges that if night work in bakeries has any reasonable relation to the health of the people, that character "might be sustained as valid legislation."

This means that if the bakery workers develop a public opinion favoring the abolishment of night work, a law "might be sustained."

If they want to depend on their economic power, however, and thoroughly organize the bakery workers instead of taking chances with the legislature and the courts, there will be no question as to the success.

WAR CHECKS LIBERTY.

Washington, March 8.—In upholding the espionage act the supreme court with attempting to interfere with army enlistments by mailing circulars to persons of draft age relative to the war, the United States supreme court holds that the right of enlistment section of the espionage act is constitutional.

"When a nation is at war," the court says, "many things that might be said in time of peace are such a hindrance to its efforts that their utterance will not be endured as long as war lasts, and to contend that even them as protected by any constitutional right."

PROFITS IN LOCOMOTIVES.

New York, March 8.—The net profits of the American Locomotive company for the year ending December 31, 1918 were $8,248,352, an increase of $2,134,342 over the corresponding period of 1917.

On the first of the present year orders calling for 1,000 engines for $34,372, and since that date orders approximating $4,500,000 have been received from Canada, South Africa and Argentine.

STRIKES IN INDIA.

Bombay, India, March 8.—The unrest of workers in numerous countries has now affected India, where the strike movement is for wage increases. Mill owners of Bombay have agreed to the demand for a shorter working day. This has been refused. The strike is spreading to non-textile trades.

FRAYNE BACK TO NEW YORK.

Washington, March 8.—As the work of the war industries board has been completed, Bruce Frayne, who has been a member of that board, has returned to New York City, where his duties will be the organizer of the A. F. of L. are located.

Compulsory Unemployment Insurance Opposed By British Trade Unionists

London, England, March 8.—By a vote of nine to one trade unionists representing 700,000 workers, affiliated with the General Federation of Trade Unions, declared against any scheme of compulsory state unemployment insurance. This is the third time since December, 1916, that the unionists have taken this position. The last declaration was made at a special general council meeting, held in this city.

J. W. Appleton, secretary of the general federation, said:

"We have always been hostile to the state interfering too much in the affairs or trade unions. If the government pays, the government must control. I hope we will keep away from the government and manage this matter of unemployment ourselves. There is no such thing as charity as a non-contributory scheme of insurance; you are bound to pay through taxation, and in the case of much higher rate because of the cost of government administration. If a man had 5 pence per week to the trade union for unemployment insurance the union could bring to the government out of existence with the benefit it could provide.

H. Bromley (boot and shoe workers) said those workers were thoroughly organized completely and that it was only by the threat of a strike that the government extracted them. The members of his union was giving the same benefits as the government's, and at less cost, besides retaining their liberty and avoiding government interference.

Thos. Mallalieu (hatters) suggested that the unemployed which they put into the trade unions; where they could handle their own affairs with more independence and greater economy.

G. Bailey (hosiery workers) said: "We are all against the government scheme. We want to be let alone. We can give the government benefit on less than our own contribution would be to their scheme, let alone what the state would get from the employers. We are going to give better benefits than the government, and we are going to charge enough to pence a week to pay for them.

J. W. Ogden, secretary of the general federation, said:

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CAN PUNISH PERJURY.

Columbus, Ohio, March 8.—The state supreme court has taken from grand jury witnesses the protection against perjury which they formerly enjoyed.

In 1916 a grand jury at Bucyrus, this state, indicted Vincent Kints on a larceny charge on testimony furnished by Edward Harriger. Kints was acquitted on trial and then sued Harriger for damages. He was awarded $600 on the ground that Harriger's testimony before the grand jury was false, malicious and malicious. The court of appeals reversed this decision on the ground that "false evidence of a witness before a grand jury is a privileged communication, and will not form the basis of an action for damages, notwithstanding the falsity was known to the witness, and that he was actuated by malice and willfulness, that only such evidence was relevant to the matter concerning which the witness so testified."

On the legal theory that for every wrong there must be a remedy, Kints appealed to the state supreme court and was unanimously upheld. The court, however, in setting aside the verdict of the court of appeals, also affirmed the action of the law, which has protected grand jury witnesses to the fullest extent.

The court in permitting a grand jury witness to tell in secrecy all he knows, it held, is true, even though he may unknowingly falsify, but the supreme court has refused to protect him against an action for civil damages shielding the willful perjurer.

WON'T RETURN ROADS YET.

Washington, March 8.—The railroads will not be returned to private management until the present congress is given an opportunity to consider a permanent program of legislation.

This announcement was made by the director general of railroads in a letter to Congressman Sims.

"For your further information," the railroad executive said, "I am glad to say that I have now discussed the matter with the president, and he has authorized me to state that it is not now time for the sudden relinquishment of the railroads, but further that it is not his present intention to relinquish the railroads until there has been an opportunity to secure a constructive permanent program of legislation is likely to be considered promptly and adopted within a reasonable time."

WANT CHINK SEAMEN.

Boston, March 8.—The "sturdy Americanism" of the United Industrial Workers of the world, representing a score of manufacturers' associations, is shown in the indirect plea for Orientals to man the country's merchant marine. In revising America's navigation acts to meet after-war conditions, the board says:

"At present several of these acts are distinctly hostile to the development and successful operation of a merchant marine. The La Follette seamen's act, for example, requiring the employment of a certain proportion of native Americans as able seamen on ships and the ability of all employes to understand English has already been responsible for the practical disappearance of American seamen from the Pacific ocean."

MINERS MAKE GAINS.

Sydney, Nova Scotia, March 8.—For the first time in the history of this province the coal operators have met in conference and signed an agreement. The eight-hour day is established with the same 10-hour wage. As a result of the conference the International Mine Workers of Nova Scotia has been merged with the United Mine Workers of North America, and the check-off system established. Mediation machinery has been set up to adjust disputes.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Monroe, La., March 8.—The Carpenters' union has signed an agreement which raises rates from 62 1-2 to 80 cents an hour, effective April 1.

Missoula, Mont., March 8.—Wages have been raised $1 per day to painters of this city. The rate is now $7.

WANT REPRESENTATION.

Hartford, Conn., March 8.—Organized barbers in this state are asking for representation on the state board of barber commission, which is composed exclusively of employers.

TOBACCO FIRM CUTS.

Winston-Salem, N. C., March 8.—The non-union R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company has cut wages and has also abolished the war bonus paid its employes.

NEW CHILD LABOR LAW.

Charleston, W. Va., March 8.—The state legislature has passed a new child labor law, which its friends declare places West Virginia among the leading states in child protection.

The new law prohibits the employment of children under 16, in any gainful occupation, except agriculture and domestic service, between 16 and 18 may receive special permits to work in business offices and mercantile establishments during school hours. Children under 16 cannot work in any mine, quarry or place of excavation, and no child may be employed in any occupation deemed by the state commissioner of labor and labor schools dangerous to life or health or injurious to morals.

No child under 16 may be employed at any time at any occupation, even during vacation, without a permit. No child under 16 may be employed at any work more than eight days or 6 hours a week, nor before 6 a. m. nor after 7 p. m.

No child shall be given a permit to work unless the child has completed the eighth grade or has attained six yearly grades of the public schools, as ascertained by examination, or else simply provides that a child able to read and write simple sentences in the English language.

CHILD ILLITERACY ALARMS.

Washington, March 8.—An alarming percentage of illiteracy among recruits for the national army has been disclosed in figures made public by the committee on public information of the United States department of labor. These figures based on the experience of the bureau of education with certificates to children going to work in the various states. Many certificates were not acceptable for the purpose because of the former federal child labor law.

More than one-fourth, or 1,254, of the 12,536 between 14 and 16 years of age to whom certificates were issued could not read a primer intelligently.

In the five states where 18,370 white children between 14 and 16 were certificated to work, 3,000 or 16 per cent of the number failed to pass the fourth grade in school. Of 1,186 colored children examined in the same period, in other words, 36 per cent of the white children and 47 per cent of the colored children granted certificates had not reached the eighth grade.

TEACHERS JOIN A. F. OF L.

Visalia, Cal., March 8.—After several weeks of investigation and discussion the teachers of Tulare county have decided to join the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

In favoring this action the committee's report said:

"In the event of its organization as an association it should enter into collective will of the teaching body of Visalia for a thorough and constructive public consideration than has been the case under other circumstances."

PICKETING IS UPHELD

Chicago, March 8.—Judge Haas of the West Chicago street police station court has discharged union barbers who were picketing a non-union shop. The court held that the unionists have a right to picket, and that they can use persuasion as with other employers and both employers and employes have machinery to adjust future disputes.

REFUSE EIGHT HOURS.

Philadelphia, March 8.—Three hundred employes of the Lit Brothers department store struck to enforce an eight-hour day. The strike is still on. The net earnings of this concern for last year were over $10,000,000, an increase of $1,400,000 over the previous year.

DRUG CLERKS UNITE.

Detroit, Mich., March 8.—Long hours, low wages and poor working conditions have led to the organization in this city to the necessity for such organization of the drug clerks.